

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Directors South Texas ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of South Texas ISD was held Tuesday, June 18, 2019, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Biblioteca Las Americas Lecture Hall, 300 Med High Drive, Mercedes, Texas.

1. Welcome.

Doug Buchanan, Board President, welcomed the guests, staff and fellow Board members.

2. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.

The pledges were led by Board member Mrs. Sylvia S. Lopez. Mrs. Lopez recited the district's Call to Action.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Doug Buchanan at 7:10 p.m. at which time he was assured by Superintendent, Dr. Marco Antonio Lara, Jr. that notices of this meeting were posted properly according to the laws of Texas and that a quorum of the Board was present.

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Graciela Camargo	Weslaco
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Yolanda Cuellar	Progreso Lakes
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Ramon Montalvo, III	Weslaco

Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg

The following Board members were absent:

Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Yolanda Chapa	McAllen
Javier Farias	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Rebecca Villarreal	Peñitas
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following staff members were present:

Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.	Jeff Hembree
J.P. Villarreal	Marla R. Knaub
Sonia E. Rodriguez	Amanda Odom
Jaelyn Buelow	Barbara Heater, Ph.D.
Efrain Garza	Carrie Saucedo
Harry Goette	Irma Castillo, Ed.D.
Ana Castro	Juan Hinojosa
Ann Vickman	

5. Public participation at South Texas ISD Board Meetings: Allotted time to hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board (BED Local).

A. Recognition of district retirees.

The Board of Directors and Administration recognized the district retirees and presented a Resolution for their service to our school community.

B. Recognition of students for their performance at the UIL Music Texas State Solo-Ensemble Contest.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Administration, Amanda Odom presented a certificate of recognition to the UIL Music Texas State Solo-Ensemble winners.

C. Recognition of Medical Professions, Preparatory Academy, Rising Scholars, and the Science Academy for being named to the 2018-2019 Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Administration, Dr. Marco Antonio Lara, Jr. and President Doug Buchanan presented certificates of recognition to

Medical Professions, Preparatory Academy, Rising Scholars, and the Science Academy for being named to the 2018-2019 Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda.

In order to promote efficient meetings, the Board may act upon more than one item by a single vote through the use of consent agenda. Consent items shall be items placed on the Agenda marked with an asterisk (*) for which no Board discussion is anticipated and for which the Superintendent recommends approval. Prior to the meeting, at the request of any member of the Board of Directors, any item on the consent agenda shall be removed and given individual consideration. Requests for individual consideration are made at least a half-hour prior to Board meetings and requests must be directed to either the Board President or the Superintendent.

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. *Action: Review and act on the May 21 & 28, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

8. Policy & Curriculum - Grace Camargo & Larry Cantu, Co-Chairs

Mr. Larry Cantu reported on the following committee items:

A. *Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. *Action: Review and act on announcement of vacancies for the Summer Leadership Symposium.

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. *Action: Review and act on proposed summer curriculum development project for World Scholars.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. Report on STAAR Grades 7 & 8 Spring 2019 results.

Jeff Hembree provided a report on the state assessment results Spring 2019 for 7th/8th grade. The STARR results are strong. The junior high teams utilize

formative assessment to refine the instruction for each student. The results demonstrate this focus on each student.

- E. Action: Review and act on request for new positions, announcement of vacancies and a change in support positions for the 2019-2020 school year.
1. Secretary to the Administrator for Human Resources
 2. District Bookkeeper
 3. Secretary to Assistant Principal

A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, approving the Secretary to the Administrator for Human Resources and the District Bookkeeper as new positions; approval of the announcement of vacancies as presented; and changing the Assistant Principals, Secretaries to the Assistant Principals/Receptionist positions from 202 days to 212 days starting with the 2019-2020 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Buildings & Grounds - Abiel J. Cantú & Richard Fleming, MD, Co-Chairs

In the absence of the Committee-Co-Chairs, Mr. Jaime R. Solis reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Action: Review and act on 2019-2020 school lunch and breakfast prices.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Report on the following:

1. Rising Scholars Academy HVAC Replacement project
2. World Scholars, STPA & Science Academy HVAC Replacement project
3. Mercedes Bus Parking Expansion project
4. STPA Security Administration Entrance
5. World Scholars and Science Academy Restroom Renovation project

Mr. JP Villarreal reported on the status of the projects listed above and pictures of the work in progress were shared.

10. Finance - Javier Farias & Adrian Garcia, Co-Chairs

Mr. Adrian Garcia reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Report on checks written since last report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Action: Review and act on 2019-2020 Employee Benefits and Travel Reimbursement Schedule.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on 2019-2020 school year job descriptions.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Annual review of district policy CDA (LOCAL) Other Revenues & Investments.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. Review: Discussion of Board Policy CH (Local) Purchasing and Acquisition.

Mr. A. Garcia reported that the Finance Committee reviewed Board Policy CH (Local) and will bring this item back for board review for consideration to amend the policy to bring the district to date as compared to other districts.

- F. Action: Review and act on awarding the Workers' Compensation Insurance Benefits Service as set out in Request for Proposal (RFP) No.19-012.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, awarding the Workers' Compensation Insurance Benefits Service to Shepard Walton King for September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:

1. Payment application #3 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at World Scholars, STPA and Science Academy.
2. Payment application #3 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the HVAC Replacement project at World Scholars, STPA and Science Academy.
3. Payment application #3 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy
4. Payment application #3 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy.
5. Payment application #1 to Noble Construction for STPA Security Administration Entrance.
6. Payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz for STPA Security Administration Entrance.

A motion was made by Mrs. Cuellar, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, approving payment application #3 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at World Scholars, STPA and Science Academy in the amount of \$622,174.00; payment application #3 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the HVAC Replacement project at World Scholars, STPA and Science Academy in the amount of \$7,862.20; payment application #3 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy in the amount of \$193,847.50; payment application #3 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy in the amount of \$2,467.07; payment application #1 to Noble Construction for STPA Security Administration Entrance in the amount of \$23,681.60; and payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz for STPA Security Administration Entrance in the amount of \$11,104.99. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Action: Review and act on Budget Amendment #2 for the International Baccalaureate Program.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Garcia, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia, approving the budget amendment #2 for the International Baccalaureate Program to fund teachers attending an IB Workshop as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Action: Review and act on the following donations:

1. \$100 from Rochester Institute of Technology to Science Academy
2. \$1,500 from Oak Ridge Associated Universities to Science Academy

A motion was made by Mr. A. Garcia, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia approving the \$100 donation from Rochester Institute of Technology and \$1,500 from Oak Ridge Associated Universities as presented. The Board expressed appreciation for the generous support. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Action: Review and act on the 2019-2020 Employee Compensation Plan.

The administration recommended a \$3,000 pay increase for all teachers, counselors, librarians, and nurses, and a 3% increase for all other employees. In addition, Administration recommended to eliminate the steps and proceed with a minimum, midpoint, and maximum salaries for all employees.

A motion was made by Mr. Lerma, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving the 2019-2020 Employee Compensation Plan (Option A) as presented, subject to proper funding being available. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Superintendent's Report - Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.

A. *Campus Reports

1. STPA - A. Castro
2. Rising Scholars - C. Saucedo
3. World Scholars - E. Garza
4. Medical Academy - H. Goette
5. Med High - B. Heater, Ph.D.
6. Science Academy - I. Castillo, Ed.D.
7. Attendance Reports - J. Hembree

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. *Action: Review and act on the following out of district student/staff travel:

1. TAMU Exploration Camp, June 24-28, 2019, College Station, TX
2. M.D. Anderson Summer Research Program, July 9-12, 2019, Bastrop, Smithville and Houston, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. *Action: Review and act on the following retirement Resolutions:

1. Scott Wiley

Approved with the consent agenda.

12. Correspondence.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on June 18, 2019 at 7:45 p.m. in a closed or executive session as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Section, 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, 551.084 and 551.001. The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. Henry LeVrier to record the minutes of the closed session to discuss the following:

A. 551.074, 551.071 Personnel Matters and consultation with school attorney regarding Personnel Matters: Closed Meeting

1. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2018-2019 school year.
 - a. Teacher Tutor(s)
2. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2019 summer programs.
3. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2019-2020 school year.
 - a. Teachers
 - b. IB Coordinator
 - c. Assistant Principal

- B. Deliberation regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Section 5541.072 of the Texas Government Code.
- C. Consultation with attorney regarding settlement offer; Tyler Technologies.

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 8:13 p.m.

14. OPEN SESSION: Action on any Item Deliberated in Closed Meeting

- A. 551.074, 551.071 Personnel Matters and consultation with school attorney regarding Personnel Matters:
 - 1. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2018-2019 school year.
 - a. Teacher Tutor(s)

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, recommended Cruz Castillo as teacher tutor for the 2018-2019 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Larry Cantu, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, approving the professional staff as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously

- 2. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2019 summer programs.

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, recommended professional staff for the 2019 summer programs as listed on page 151-152 (as revised per handout).

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving the professional staff for the 2019 summer programs as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously

- 3. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2019-2020 school year.
 - a. Teachers
 - b. IB Coordinator
 - c. Assistant Principal

Additionally, Dr. Lara recommended the following professional staff for the 2019-2020 school year: Teachers (10 month contract) Erin Elizabeth Sutton, Efrain Reyna, Roberta Abdallah and Mark A. Orta; IB Coordinator Victoria Ann Marin (11 month contract); and Assistant Principal Wilmer Romero (11 month contract).

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia, approving the professional staff (teachers, IB Coordinator and Assistant Principal) for

the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Consider and take possible action regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.

A motion was made by Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, giving authorization to the Superintendent of Schools as discussed in executive session and enter into contract with conditions. The motion passed with two against (B. Lerma & E. Rodriguez).

- C. Action: Review and act on Tyler Technologies settlement agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Gonzales, approving the settlement with Tyler Technologies as discussed in executive session and authorize the Superintendent to sign all settlement documentation. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. Cantu, seconded by Dr. Castillo, adjourning the board meeting at 8:17 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.